

# SENATE AND HOUSE.

## THEIR WORK ON YESTERDAY.

Richmond Schools and County Scholars.—  
 Local-Option Discretion in the House—  
 New Bill—Committee Reports, &c.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock M.—  
 Lieutenant-Governor Massey in the  
 chair. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Cooper.

### VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

House joint resolution providing for  
 the appointment of a committee of  
 three on the part of the Senate and two  
 on the part of the House to visit the  
 Virginia Military Institute and investi-  
 gate the condition of that institution  
 was taken up and agreed to. The Chair  
 appointed as members of the commit-  
 tee on the part of the Senate Messrs.  
 Jones and Causey.

### CHANGE OF PAGES.

Walter C. Fulkerson, who has re-  
 ceived an appointment to West Point,  
 tendered his resignation as a Page in the  
 Senate, and William Ramsey, of Bland  
 county, was elected in his stead.

### PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Stubbs: A bill to repeal  
 chapter 247 of the Acts of 1881-'82,  
 entitled an act declaring certain grounds  
 under the name of known as Hampton  
 Flats open and eligible for the planting  
 of oysters.

By Mr. Gaines: A bill to place the  
 inmates of insane asylums under the  
 protection of the laws by securing to  
 them their postal rights.

By Mr. Bliss: A bill for the repeal  
 of game laws as they apply to the  
 counties of Cumberland and Prince Ed-  
 ward.

By Mr. Meredith: A bill to author-  
 ize the Board of Supervisors of Prince  
 William county to supplement the sal-  
 ary of the judge of the County Court  
 of said county. [The amount of in-  
 crease is left to the discretion of the  
 Board.]

By Mr. Duane: A bill authorizing  
 the County Court of Dinwiddie county  
 to order the purchase of additional land  
 for court-house purposes.

By Mr. Lovenstein: A bill to repeal  
 sections 7 to 12 inclusive of chapter 86  
 of the Code of 1873, in regard to the  
 compulsory inspection of flour and  
 meal.

### TREASURER'S COMPENSATION.

Mr. Gaines presented the following,  
 which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Fi-  
 nance be requested to consider the ex-  
 pediency of a measure to increase the  
 compensation of county and city treasurers  
 on all tax-bills not exceeding three dol-  
 lars and remaining unpaid on the 1st  
 day of December of each year.

### FIVE TO BE A QUORUM.

Mr. Koiner presented a resolution,  
 which was adopted, providing that for  
 the remainder of the session five mem-  
 bers of any standing committee shall  
 constitute a quorum for the transaction  
 of business.

### ROAD-LAW FOR BEDFORD.

On motion of Mr. Thurman, the bill  
 amending and re-enacting section 17  
 of chapter 352 of Acts of 1883-'84, in  
 relation to providing for the working  
 and repairing of public roads and bridges,  
 was taken up, the amendments proposed  
 by him agreed to, and the bill ordered  
 to its engrossment. The bill as amend-  
 ed only applies to Bedford county, and  
 provides that the citizens of the town  
 of Liberty shall be exempt from work-  
 ing on the roads of said county.

### HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

To incorporate the Danbury and  
 Parkersburg Railroad Company.

To incorporate the Madison Court-  
 house and Gordonsville Telephone  
 Company.

For the repeal of game laws as they  
 apply to the county of Brunswick.

### SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

The hour of 1 o'clock having arrived,  
 the special order—the report of the  
 Committee on Public Institutions that  
 it is inexpedient to legislate upon the  
 subject of reducing the salary of county  
 and city school superintendents—was  
 taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Hea-  
 ton, passed by.

### BILLS REJECTED.

To amend the Code of 1873, in regard  
 to superintendent of the poor, physi-  
 cian, and nurse.

For the protection of owners of sta-  
 tions.

### COLLECTION OF TAXES.

Mr. Diggs, from the Committee for  
 Courts of Justice, reported, without  
 amendment, the following bill, present-  
 ed by Mr. Stubbs:

1. *Be it enacted by the General As-  
 sembly of Virginia*, That the right to en-  
 force and collect all taxes due the State  
 of Virginia, and taxes due any corpo-  
 ration or county in Virginia, shall exist  
 for ten years after the same became  
 due, but not after.

2. This act shall be in force from its  
 passage.

### THE SCHOOL LAW.

A number of bills were advanced on  
 the calendar, when Mr. Diggs's bill to  
 amend and re-enact chapter 132 of the  
 Acts of 1884, approved November 17,  
 1884, in regard to securing to tax-  
 payers in cities and towns the right  
 of public-school education for their  
 children, with the substitute pro-  
 posed by the committee, was reached.  
 The main point of difference was that  
 Mr. Diggs's bill provided, that it shall  
 be lawful for any person who is a tax-  
 payer and citizen of Virginia, owning  
 real estate to the assessed value of  
 \$1,500 in any city, town, or county  
 school district, to send his children to  
 any public free school in such city,  
 town, or county school district, subject  
 to the laws regulating public free  
 schools therein, as though said tax-  
 payer resided in such city, town, or  
 county school district, while the  
 substitute provided that it shall be  
 lawful for any person, who is a tax-  
 payer and citizen of Virginia, in any  
 city, town, or county, or school district,  
 and who is not a resident of the same  
 town, city, county, or school district,  
 to send his children to any public free  
 school in said town, city, county, or  
 school district, subject to the laws regu-  
 lating public free schools in said city,  
 town, county, or school district.]

Mr. Diggs opposed the substitute,  
 believing that the requirements of the  
 original bill would better meet the pub-  
 lic demand. He argued that under the  
 substitute a person might live anywhere  
 in the State, and by placing one piece of  
 personal property in Richmond, or else-  
 where, might send his children there.

Mr. Lovenstein also opposed the sub-  
 stitute. He favored the present law,  
 which leaves the matter to the discre-  
 tion of the school board of the place  
 to which such children may be sent.

Mr. Berry wanted to amend the  
 substitute so as to provide that it shall  
 be lawful for any person who is a tax-  
 payer and citizen of Virginia to send  
 his children to any public free

school in any town, city, county, and  
 school district, &c.

He advocated his amendment in an  
 able, earnest, and eloquent speech  
 which brought forth applause, both  
 from the chamber and hall. He asked  
 in the name of the people of the coun-  
 try, whose children have to be taught  
 by men whose highest ambition is to  
 engage in a profession which would  
 earn for them about \$150 per annum,  
 that the cities where the schools are  
 best managed should let these children  
 in—those country boys from whom the  
 State has to draw her sinews of war  
 and statesmen—and let them receive the  
 good that might accrue therefrom and  
 which would cost the cities nothing.

He said the problem for the future is  
 the relation of the negro to the white  
 man. There is no kitchen from which  
 there will not be three pupils to every  
 one from a mansion. This matter must  
 be recognized and dealt with, because  
 it won't do. Unless there is a change  
 the time will come when the remorse-  
 ful calamity will befall us that the  
 educated negro of the city will domi-  
 nate over the uneducated white boy of  
 the country. There are many means  
 of averting this evil, but none more ef-  
 fective than that the doors of the school-  
 houses of the cities be thrown open to  
 the children of the country. He said  
 the Constitution imposes a great bur-  
 den upon us. It is as unfeeling to our  
 needs as a boot is to a man's hand.

Mr. Berry made a powerful argu-  
 ment, and said that the substitute  
 nothing, but asked what he did as a favor.  
 He deplored the fact that the iron sys-  
 tem of the law cannot be broken.

Mr. Ellison opposed the amendment  
 and the entire substitute upon the  
 ground that it was unjust to the cities  
 and counties which had made proper  
 provision for the education of their  
 children. He produced statistics to  
 show that Richmond pays into the State  
 Treasury about twice as much school-  
 tax as is apportioned to her.

Mr. Causey would vote for the amend-  
 ment but not for the reasons urged by  
 Mr. Berry.

Mr. Lovenstein opposed the amend-  
 ment.

Mr. Heston favored the amendment,  
 and Mr. Gaines favored the original  
 bill.

Mr. Kezell demanded the pending  
 question, and the amendment was de-  
 feated by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Berry, Hubbard, Edwards,  
 Heaton, Hurl, Koiner, McDonald, More-  
 dell, Pettit, Rhine, Staples, and Twyman—  
 12.

NOES—Messrs. Bliss, Dalton, Diggs, Du-  
 neau, Ellison, Fulkerson, Heaton, Jones,  
 Kezell, Lovenstein, Pratt, Stubbs,  
 Trout, Warwick, and Wickham—17.

Mr. Kezell offered an amendment,  
 which provides that a tax-payer and  
 citizen of Virginia may send his child-  
 ren to school anywhere in the State  
 where he owns any real estate.

Pending its further consideration the  
 Senate, at 3:15 P. M., adjourned.

### HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at 12 M.—Mr.  
 Echols in the chair. Prayer by Rev.  
 Dudley Powers, of the Episcopal  
 Church.

### SENATE BILL REPORTED.

To amend and re-enact sections 1  
 and 4 of an act to incorporate the Sa-  
 lem and Southwestern Railroad Com-  
 pany, approved February 20, 1884.

### HOUSE BILLS REPORTED.

To authorize the authorities of the  
 city of Winchester to establish water-  
 works and to incur a debt for that pur-  
 pose; to amend and re-enact an act ap-  
 proved March 8, 1875, as amended by  
 act approved March 7, 1884, in relation  
 to qualification of county officers; to  
 amend and re-enact section 2 of chapter  
 147 of the Code of 1873, in relation  
 to warrants for small claims; to amend  
 and re-enact section 5 of chapter 167 of  
 the Code of 1873, as amended by an  
 act approved 12th of February, 1884,  
 and as amended by further  
 act approved 22d of March, 1884, in  
 relation to orders and decrees; to  
 amend and re-enact section 3 of an  
 act approved March 13, 1875, entitled  
 an act to incorporate the construction of  
 a turnpike road in Princess Anne and  
 Norfolk counties; to incorporate the  
 Durham, Blue-Wing and Clarksville  
 Railroad Company; to incorporate the  
 Juncos Transportation Company; to  
 authorize the county of Madison to  
 subscribe to the stock of the Madison  
 Courthouse and Orange Railroad Com-  
 pany on certain conditions.

### INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. Reid: Bill to authorize the  
 school trustees of Brentsville district,  
 in Prince William county, to sell the  
 school-house in said district.

By Mr. L. D. Fulkerson: Bill to  
 amend and re-enact section 1 of an act  
 entitled an act to pay to the public free  
 schools the money set apart by the Con-  
 stitution and laws for their benefit, and  
 chapter 177 of Acts of 1877-'78, and  
 chapter 177 of Acts of 1877-'78, ap-  
 proved March 6, 1882.

By Mr. Row: Bill to erect a suitable  
 enclosure around the monument of ex-  
 President Madison. [This bill provides  
 for the appropriation of \$1,500, or so  
 much thereof as may be necessary, to  
 erect a suitable iron inclosure, in order  
 to prevent permanent defacement of the  
 monument by relic-hunters.]

By Mr. Franklin: Bill to release all  
 delinquent taxes prior to January 1,  
 1880. [A motion to suspend the rules  
 and place the bill on the calendar was  
 lost.]

By Mr. Nance: Bill to make it law-  
 ful for the Boards of Supervisors of  
 New Kent and Charles City counties to  
 levy for additional compensation for the  
 county judges, &c.

By Mr. Huffman: Bill to amend and  
 re-enact section 21 of chapter 17 of an  
 act approved March 14, 1878, in regard  
 to change of venue.

By Mr. Downing: Bill amending an  
 act prescribing the duties and powers  
 of certain county officers.

By Mr. Hoge: Bill to release Wil-  
 liam A. Smoot from the payment of a  
 fine assessed against him upon the trial  
 of an indictment in the County Court  
 of Patrick county for carrying concealed  
 weapons.

By Mr. Seabell: Bill to change the  
 name of the Franklin Agricultural and  
 Mechanical Society to Tidewater Agri-  
 cultural and Mechanical Society.

By Mr. Westcott: Bill to impose a  
 tax on dogs in the county of Accom-  
 ack.

By Mr. Buchanan: Bill to incorpo-  
 rate the Virginia Railroad and Trans-  
 portation Company.

By Mr. Miller: Bill to incorporate  
 the Merchants and Mechanics Bank,  
 located in the city of Manchester.

The corporations are as follows: E.  
 W. Weisiger, Edgar Archer, C. W. Nun-  
 nally, A. T. Snodgrass, T. M. Miller, J.  
 F. Gilliam, D. L. Toal, E. L. Adams,  
 G. M. Evans, H. B. Owen, George B.  
 McGee, and W. R. Bowie.]

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Leave of absence was granted Mr.  
 Porter for two days, Mr. Hay for two  
 days, Mr. Arnold for three days, Mr.

Gills for four days, Mr. Moss for four  
 days, Mr. Jones for five days.

### RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT.

A communication was received from  
 Giles Cook, Jr., tendering his resigna-  
 tion as a member of the County Board  
 of School Commissioners of Warren  
 county, which was accepted.

Mr. H. M. Miller was elected to fill  
 the vacancy created.

### LOCAL OPTION.

The general local-option bill was an-  
 nounced as a special order.

Mr. Loving offered a substitute.

He stated that the local-option bill  
 provided for an election in each county,  
 city, or town of the Commonwealth,  
 and in the event that a county vote  
 against local option and a magisterial  
 district in the county should vote for it,  
 then the district so voting should have  
 local option regardless of the vote in the  
 other parts of the county; that is, it  
 gives each magisterial district the abso-  
 lute right to adopt (by its vote) local  
 option, but does not give it the right to  
 reject it. The substitute offered gives  
 each magisterial district the right to  
 determine the question for itself, and  
 the result of the vote in the district  
 shall be a final decision of the question,  
 irrespective of the vote in the other dis-  
 tricts of the county.

Mr. Echols moved to recommit the  
 bill that it might be put in better shape  
 before a vote is taken.

A number of gentlemen indicated  
 that at the proper time they should  
 offer substitutes.

Mr. A. Fulkerson offered the follow-  
 ing:

1. *Be it enacted by the General As-  
 sembly*, That after this act takes effect  
 no license for the sale of ardent spirits,  
 wine, malt liquors, or any mixture of  
 any of them shall be granted to any  
 person in this State; and any person  
 who, after this act takes effect, shall  
 sell wine, ardent spirits, malt liquors,  
 or any mixture of them, shall incur the  
 penalty prescribed by the general laws  
 for selling the same.

2. This act shall take effect and be  
 in force on and after the 1st day of  
 May, 1888.

Mr. Grimley was opposed to recom-  
 mitting the bill. He thought it would  
 be better for the House to amend it  
 where it was defective and vote on it at  
 the earliest day. He opposed delay.

Mr. Curlett was in favor of recom-  
 mitting the whole matter to the com-  
 mittee.

Mr. O'Bannon said he thought that  
 the House was the best place to con-  
 sider and further mature the bill.

Mr. Martin said that it looked  
 like those in favor of the bill didn't  
 want to stand fire to-day; that a com-  
 mittee's duty was only to sift the parts  
 of a bill and to consider them, but that  
 exact consideration it needed in all  
 ways differed from others on a bill's  
 merits or defects. He was in favor of  
 the bill just as it stands, without sub-  
 stitutes or amendments. He wanted  
 the matter to come up to-day. "Let's  
 stay here all day—it's a rainy day—  
 and, if necessary, let us take it into  
 consideration section by section. Now  
 is the accepted time."

Mr. Waddill did not wish to be con-  
 sidered as the champion of either the  
 local-option party or the opposition.  
 He was opposed to a recommitment of  
 the bill.

Mr. Mayo wished to dispose of the  
 bill to-day, even if it was raining and  
 a bad day for local option. [Laughter.]

Mr. Echols, in regard to his motion  
 to recommit the bill, said he appre-  
 ciated the fact that this is an im-  
 portant question, and he thought that  
 it could not receive the careful and  
 exact consideration it needed in the  
 hurriedly and of loss of the House.

Mr. Porter said if any good could be  
 accomplished by a recommitment to the  
 committee he would favor it, but he  
 was sure that it would come back in  
 precisely the same condition it is now,  
 and it would only cause useless delay.

Mr. Thorne hoped the House would  
 not agree to recommit the bill, for it  
 had already been given due considera-  
 tion by the Finance Committee. The  
 bill, as reported, needed no amend-  
 ment, without regard to politics, creed, or  
 religion, is the bill that the temperance  
 people want. He supposed that all  
 amendments had been submitted in good  
 faith, but thought the effect of them was  
 only to put the bill off and defer it un-  
 til it was too late to consider it—there-  
 by killing it.

Mr. O'Bannon moved the reference  
 of the bill to the Committee on Coun-  
 ties, Cities, and Towns, instead of the  
 Committee on Finance.

Mr. Hay moved to pass by and print.  
 Lost.

Mr. Fulkerson moved to amend  
 by committee of the bill to the Com-  
 mittee for Courts of Justice to ascertain  
 if it is constitutional. This General  
 Assembly cannot delegate legisla-  
 tive powers to the counties and dis-  
 tricts, and that is practically what the  
 bill proposes.

Mr. Waddill was opposed to the bill  
 and so were the people in his locality.  
 He moved to postpone and print in  
 good faith, desiring to see the bill put  
 in proper shape and condition. That it  
 needs a number of amendments is agreed  
 on all hands.

Mr. Mayo said the whole subject had  
 been exhausted by the committee, and  
 further questions should be decided  
 here. Some members of the House,  
 he said, talked as though local option  
 was a new law.

Mr. Fulkerson was in favor of pro-  
 hibition and submitting such a law to  
 the people to vote on. He thought that  
 the Legislature was divesting itself of  
 its powers in giving counties, districts, &c.,  
 the right to decide the matter each for  
 itself. He doubted the constitutionality  
 of local option.

Mr. Waddill said the people of Vir-  
 ginia were not going to be satisfied  
 with the decision of the Committee  
 on Counties; that there were a num-  
 ber of members here who would not  
 be guided in this matter by the  
 opinion of the Committee on Counties.

Mr. Westcott regarded the bill as now  
 formulated as the best judgment of the  
 Committee on Finance. "Of course  
 we might send it back time and again,  
 but it would never be presented  
 here in a shape that would meet the  
 approval of all the members of this  
 House."

Mr. Echols believed that local option  
 in his country would be one of the  
 hardest moves ever attempted. He  
 hoped that each member would con-  
 sider the vital importance of this mat-  
 ter, and he for one was in favor of the  
 bill.

Mr. Loving said no reason why the  
 matter should be referred to the Com-  
 mittee for Courts of Justice. He did  
 not doubt the constitutionality of the  
 bill. He wished the bill recommitted  
 to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Grimley saw no reason for doubting  
 the constitutionality of this bill. He  
 couldn't see why the matter should be  
 referred to the Committee for Courts of  
 Justice.

Mr. Stuart thought that the bill, with  
 all its amendments, should be consid-  
 ered in the committee, so that if it is  
 in the committee, so that if it is

bill should pass it would be the most  
 perfect condition.

Mr. Buchanan pointed out some  
 glaring errors in the bill. He wished  
 it recommitted to have them corrected.  
 He pronounced himself a friend of the  
 measure, and for that reason desired  
 that the manifest errors which appear  
 in the bill should be corrected. This,  
 he was sure, could be better done in  
 committee than in the House.

Mr. Mayo said a good way to perfect  
 a bill is by the House resolving itself,  
 as it were, into a committee of the  
 whole, and then let the bill be read  
 line by line, and make such insertions  
 and amendments as are proper. He  
 favored taking up the bill now and go-  
 ing to work on it.

Mr. Stuart's motion to postpone and  
 print was carried.

The general understanding was  
 that the bill would come up to-day,  
 but that depends on whether the sev-  
 eral amendments and substitutes have  
 been printed by the time the bill is  
 called. If they are not, a further delay  
 will be caused.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

The following committee was ap-  
 pointed on the part of the House to  
 visit and inspect the Virginia Military  
 Institute: Messrs. A. Fulkerson, C. F.  
 Jordan, and Mayo.

A motion to adjourn was carried on  
 a call of the ayes and noes.

### SOME GREAT MEASURES.

Special Court of Appeals—Delinquent Land-  
 owners—Removal of Delinquent Taxpayers.

Though there is considerable uni-  
 formity among members of the General  
 Assembly as to the necessity for estab-  
 lishing a special court of appeals, as  
 yet little progress has been made in  
 framing a bill to meet the varying views  
 as to details. There are three bills be-  
 fore the House Committee for Courts.  
 The greatest difference of opinion is as  
 to how the docket of the Supreme Court  
 shall be divided off. That point settled,  
 there will be no great difficulty in the  
 committee's agreeing on all other. Ac-  
 tion is expected this week or early next  
 week.

Members of the two houses are re-  
 ceiving a great many letters from their  
 constituents about the sale of delin-  
 quent lands, and it is likely that the  
 pressure of public opinion will compel  
 the framing of still another bill. It  
 now looks as if the General Assembly  
 will adopt a measure which, while  
 keeping strictly within the constitu-  
 tional limits, will forever withhold the  
 collection of all, or nearly all, the taxes  
 returned delinquent prior to 1880. This  
 is the way it now looks.

An examination of the records of the  
 Clerk of the House shows that the  
 Committee on Roads presented the  
 railroad-commissioners' bill as an  
 original bill. They took Mr. Munford's  
 bill, struck out the 13th section, made  
 some other amendments, struck off Mr.  
 Munford's name as patron and adopted  
 the bill as theirs, and so presented it to  
 the House. The question is, therefore,  
 now or, at the next Tuesday will be  
 the engrossment of the bill. If any  
 one wishes Mr. Munford's old 13th  
 section incorporated in the bill he must  
 propose it as an amendment. This puts  
 the bill in a different position from that  
 stated yesterday.

From the debate and votes in the  
 House yesterday it would seem that the  
 friends of a general local-option law  
 will have no difficulty in passing their  
 bill when a vote is reached; but they  
 now, or at the next Tuesday will be  
 recognized leader and having had a very  
 faulty bill reported. It was their own  
 bill, but for all that it is very imperfect.  
 Mr. Buchanan, who is a man of con-  
 spicuous ability and an earnest sup-  
 porter of local option, yesterday pointed  
 out some of the defects of the bill—  
 all of which have been noticed in the  
 editorial columns of this paper.

The printing ordered yesterday is  
 done by 1 o'clock to-day the bill will  
 come up again to-day.

The convict-labor bill reported in  
 the House by Mr. Echols, chairman of  
 the Committee on Asylums and Prisons,  
 does not fully meet the views of the  
 Knights of Labor, but is still in an  
 amendable shape. Mr. Carter means  
 to push his bills now before the com-  
 mittee, and if he succeeds in having  
 them reported, they will, with the bill  
 reported by Mr. Echols, will bring all,  
 or nearly all, the questions at issue before  
 the House for its action.

### Commandery No. 2.